

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

CARROLLTON BAPTIST CHURCH, PICKENS CO., ALA.,

Aug. 31st and Sep. 2d, 1878.

Next Session will be held with Bethel Baptist Church, Tuska-
loosa County, Ala., commencing on Saturday before
the 1st Sabbath in Sept., 1879.

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MINUTES.

The Forty-third Annual Session of the UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, was held with the Carrollton Baptist Church, Pickens County, Alabama, commencing on Saturday, August 31st, 1878.

The Introductory Sermon was delivered, according to appointment, by Brother H. B. Chappelle, at 11 o'clock A. M., from text, Eccl. 9: 10.

After a recess of one hour, the delegates assembled, and the Association was called to order by the Moderator, Elder J. C. Foster, and the session was opened with prayer by Elder J. T. Yerby, of the Tuskaloosa Association.

Letters from the churches were read by brethren J. H. Curry and R. A. Foster, and the names of delegates enrolled.

On motion, received delegates of Bethlehem Church without letter.

The Association was organized by the re-election of Elder J. C. Foster, Moderator, and H. B. Chappelle, Clerk.

On motion, adopted an Order of Business, and proceedings conducted accordingly:

1. Received a petitionary letter from the Baptist Church at Antioch, Pickens County, Alabama, being recently constituted. On motion, the church was received and delegates invited to seats. The church, by request, was assigned to the 3rd District.

2. Visiting brethren were invited to seats and to take part in our deliberations; whereupon Elder L. M. Stone, of the Gainesville Female College, was received and cordially invited to a seat.

3. Received correspondence from sister associations: From the Tuskaloosa, Elder J. T. Yerby and brother J. F. Lanneau. From the Columbus, brother A. E. Atwater.

The Moderator gave the right hand of fellowship to the messengers, and cordially invited them to seats.

Received a very encouraging letter from the Sabbath School Convention, which, on motion, was received by the Association, and referred to Committee on Sunday Schools.

4. Appointed following committees:

On Preaching—H. Strickland, H. L. Williams, J. J. Lee, N. Cobb, with the Pastor and Deacons of Carrollton Church.

Correspondence—J. H. Stinson, P. H. Howard, S. Hildreth, and I. Teer.

Education—J. G. Thornton, W. G. Comerford, J. T. Hancock, C. T. Fort.

Documents—M. G. Loftin, J. A. Mitchell, G. M. Lyles, W. H. Robertson.

Nominations—M. L. Stansel, W. Vail, B. E. Whitaker, J. P. Barnett.

Missions—L. M. Stone, J. B. Kilpatrick, C. Richey, J. Shirly.

Finance—J. W. Hanson, J. M. Land, R. H. Foster.

Sabbath Schools—W. G. Robertson, A. Shepherd, Wm. McCollough, J. L. Ray.

Deceased Deacons—J. H. Curry, J. T. McShan, J. N. Parker, J. H. Pate.

Publications—J. P. Lee, M. P. Smith, J. W. Atteberry, J. B. Shepherd.

The Committee on Preaching reported :

Preaching to-night, by Elder L. M. Stone. The Annual Missionary Sermon to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock, according to appointment, in Baptist Church, by Elder R. A. Massey. At the same hour, preaching at the Methodist Church, by Elder J. T. Yerby. In the afternoon, Elder G. M. Lyles preach in the Baptist Church, and at the same hour Elder J. G. Thornton preach at the Methodist Church. Preaching on to-morrow night by Elder J. C. Foster, at the Baptist Church.

On motion, adjourned until Monday morning 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder M. P. Smith.

SABBATH.

The exercises of this day were in accordance with the report of the Committee on Preaching. The attendance was larger than for many years past, yet perfect order and decorum prevailed, while the Word was preached with zeal and energy. Amount contributed for Missions \$29.20.

MONDAY—9 O'CLOCK A. M.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with prayer by Elder J. A. Mitchell.

5. Minutes of Saturday read and approved.

6. Read Constitution and Rules of Decorum.

7. Roll called and absentees marked.

8. Report of Committee on Missions read, when, on motion, order of Business was suspended, and a collection for Rome Mission was taken up, and the sum of \$20.20 was contributed, after which said report was adopted, as follows :

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

Your Committee are at a loss as to what should be said on this subject. Believing that our people fully recognize the work as an important one, and that it is the duty of the church to send the Gospel into all the world and preach it to every creature, it is, then, only necessary for us to adopt the most expeditious and systematic measures for carrying out the commission of our Lord and Master, and by united effort and determination go to work faithfully, and in the fear of God execute our plans. We are under obligations to God, and it is our bounden Christian duty, to pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth more laborers into His vineyard ; and it is equally our

duty to contribute of our substance—to give our money, time and influence for the support and maintenance of the laborers. Until we are fully awakened on this subject, until we come up to the help of the Lord, until we discharge the duty we owe to God, to ourselves, and to perishing souls, we cannot confidently expect to be blessed in this world nor in the world to come. The Lord will withhold from them who withhold from Him. The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof. That which we have is not our own, and it is right and our duty to contribute liberally to the support of the Gospel in foreign, as well as our own land.

We insist that this Association heartily co-operate with all Mission enterprises of the Southern Baptist Convention, and also the work of our State Board with our money and influence. It is by the preaching of the Gospel that the world is to be saved. We do hope you will view this subject in the light its great importance demands. We especially call the attention of the Association to the Rome Mission work, and ask your serious consideration of the matter.

Fraternally submitted,

R. A. MASSEY, *Chairman.*

9. Committee on Sabbath Schools reported, which, on motion, was referred back for amendment, and was then adopted:

Your Committee find only about one-third of the churches report Sabbath Schools. The schools reported are in a flourishing condition, and are accomplishing much good. One church reports four conversions, and significantly remarks, "*They were members of the Sabbath School.*" Should not this encourage other churches to engage in the good work? May the Lord arouse all His children to the importance of assembling every Sabbath in their churches for the purpose of teaching the truths of the Gospel.

We respectfully call your attention to the report of the Sabbath School Convention, and recommend that we return correspondence, and that this Association turn all our funds to this Convention, not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of supporting Sabbath Schools.

Respectfully submitted,

M. G. LOFTON, *Chairman.*

10. Circular Letter read. On motion, adopted, and ordered to be printed.

11. Report of Committee on Education, adopted:

Realizing as we do, the importance of Education, and knowing that tends to elevate, adorn, dignify, and expand the minds of those who are brought under its influence, we feel that we cannot too highly recommend it, and would insist upon the brotherhood to look well to the education of their children; to send them to schools where the Bible will be placed in their hands, and the religion of Christ, as taught therein, thrown around them. We especially recommend the Southern Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Howard College, Marion, Ala.; Judson Female Institute, Marion, Ala., and Alabama Central Female College, Tuscaloosa, Ala., as being worthy of our support and patronage. And we would urge upon our people the importance of building up our State Denominational Institutions. Why send our children abroad to educate them, when in our own State colleges education is made as thorough, practical, comprehensive and economical as in any first-class college in America? We may justly feel proud of our colleges, which offer as high grades of scholarship as can be had in this or any other country.

J. H. CURRY *Chairman.*

12. Committee on Correspondence, adopted.

13. Reports from District Meetings were read, and adopted:

FIRST DISTRICT--Next annual meeting of this District will be held with Corinth Church, Tuskaloosa County, Alabama, Friday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1879. Introductory Sermon by Elder J. S. Wooten; alternate, Elder J. A. Mitchell. Missionary Sermon by Elder S. Hildreth. *Queries for discussion:* 1. How should our union meetings be conducted so as best to promote our Master's cause? 2. Do the Scriptures authorize the intercommunion of Baptist churches at the Lord's Supper? *Essays:* 1. The

effect of fervent prayer. Elder J. S. Wooten. 2. The benefits to be derived by the early training of youth. P. H. Howard. Visiting brethren: J. M. Smith, W. G. Berry, J. P. Barnett, J. L. Ray.

SECOND DISTRICT—The next meeting of this District will be held with Oak Ridge Church, Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in July, 1879. Introductory Sermon by Elder G. M. Lyles; alternate, Elder J. P. Lee. Missionary Sermon by Brother H. B. Chappelle; alternate, Elder J. M. Land. *Queries for discussion*: 1. For what is a believer crowned—for his faith or his good works? 2. Should a church, dismissing one of her members by letter, who is a deacon, recommend him as such to other churches? If a brother obtains a letter of dismission from the church of which he is a member, and while he holds said letter is guilty of some sin for which he ought to be disciplined, but before his sin comes to light he joins another church, which church should discipline said brother? 4. Is it the privilege of any christian so to live as never to doubt his acceptance with God? *Essays*: 1. Matt. 19:28—H. B. Chappelle. 2. Exodus 6:3—G. M. Lyles. 3. 1st Peter 3:19—J. P. Lee. 4. John 3:5—J. M. Land. 5. The office work of the Holy Spirit. J. T. Hancock. Visiting brethren: J. H. Curry, C. Richey, J. A. Mitchell, J. J. Lee.

THIRD DISTRICT—Next annual meeting will be held with Prairie Church, Green County, Alabama, Friday before the 4th Sabbath in August, 1879. Introductory Sermon by Elder S. Hildreth; alternate, Elder J. G. Thornton. Missionary Sermon by Elder J. H. Curry; alternate, Elder R. A. Massey. *Queries for discussion*: 1. Has a church the Scriptural right to invite members of sister churches to participate in her communion of the Lord's Supper? Opened by W. P. Peden. 2. Should a church tolerate members who engage in card playing and dancing or who allow such to be done at their houses? Opened by C. F. Fort. 3. What are the duties of delegates to district meetings? Opened by M. G. Loftin. *Essays*: 1. What is the design of Church Communion? L. M. Stone. 2. Can the heathen be saved without the Gospel? W. G. Robertson. Visiting brethren: N. J. Cobb, T. J. Nix, I. Teer, J. P. Barnett, J. G. Thornton, G. A. Stewart, J. B. Kilpatrick.

FOURTH DISTRICT—Next annual meeting will be held with Grant's Creek Church, Friday before the 1st Sabbath in August, 1879. Introductory Sermon by Elder J. L. Ray; alternate, Elder M. P. Smith. Missionary Sermon by Elder J. G. Thornton; alternate, Elder J. C. Foster. *Queries for discussion*: 1. The duty and benefit of family prayer. Opened by T. J. Nix and J. M. Smith. 2. What is meant by "he that exhorteth on exhortation?" Romans 12:8. Opened by W. G. Berry, E. H. Liverman and N. Cobb. *Essay*: What are the duties of Pastors to the individual members of their churches? R. H. Foster. Visiting brethren: J. A. Mitchell, J. H. Curry, M. G. Loftin, R. H. Jennings, G. M. Lyles, S. Hildreth, H. B. Chappelle, R. A. Massey.

14. Appointed delegates to the Baptist State Convention, Birmingham, Alabama, Thursday before the 3rd Sabbath in July, 1879. J. A. Mitchell, R. A. Massey, J. G. Thornton, J. C. Foster, L. M. Stone, M. L. Stansel, J. H. Curry, H. B. Chappelle, W. G. Robertson, R. H. Foster, J. T. Hancock.

15. Returned Correspondence to other Associations:

To the Tuscaloosa—To convene with the Northport Church on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in September, 1878. J. A. Mitchell, W. G. Berry, J. C. Foster, R. H. Foster, J. W. Mitchell, J. Mills, Jr.

To the Columbus—To convene with the Bethesda Church, four miles northwest of Crawfordville, Miss., Friday before the 2d Sunday in September, 1878. J. H. Curry, J. H. Stinson, J. T. Hancock, J. A. Burgin, W. M. McCollough, J. P. Barnett, W. P. Peden, J. C. Foster.

On motion, adjourned until 2 o'clock p. m. Prayer by Elder L. M. Stone.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. H. Curry.

16. Report of Committee on Publications read, when the claims of the Alabama Baptist were presented by brethren L. M. Stone and W. G. Robertson, and twenty-four subscribers were obtained. Report adopted :

Your Committee recommend the Bible first as the text book for all. Then the Alabama Baptist, Selma, Alabama, edited by brethren Winkler & West. Also, Kind Words and Foreign Mission Journal, both published by Southern Baptist Convention; the former at Macon, Ga., the latter at Richmond, Va.

J. P. LEE, *Chairman.*

17. Report of Executive Committee was read, and on motion, amended, when pledges were made by the churches and delegates present to the amount of \$250.00 for the support of a Missionary within the bounds of this Association; the report was then adopted :

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee appointed at the last session of your body to take charge of and conduct the mission work in your bounds respectfully make the following report :

We held a meeting and counseled together about the matter, and as there were no funds on hand, we thought it inadvisable to make any appointment. We issued an urgent appeal to the churches to take up collections and forward to the board as early as possible so that we could employ a missionary for a portion of the time. The following only have responded :

Carrollton Church.....	\$16.85
Pickensville Church.....	1.25
Spring Hill Church.....	1.25
Second District meeting.....	5.00
	————— \$24.35

You will very readily understand from the above why we have done nothing.

During the month of February, Brother T. M. Bailey, Secretary of State Mission Board, and Brother T. M. Barbour, District Evangelist, made a preaching tour through the southern and eastern portion of our jurisdiction in behalf of the State work, but learning that your body had proposed to cultivate this field, they did not present the claims of the State Board, but urged our committee to see what we could do, and if we failed, to co-operate with them and let the State Board occupy the field. The committee thought it advisable under the circumstances and from past experience to accept the proposition of Brother Bailey, and through the Chairman, notified the State Secretary of our decision—to turn over the work to the State Board. From unknown cause to the committee, the District Evangelist has made no further appointments within our bounds.

In addition to the amount above the

Carrollton Church has contributed.....	\$14.00
Carrollton Sabbath School has contributed.....	3.75
	————— \$17.25

and turned it over to the State Board. The other funds are on hand subject to your order.

It is a lamentable fact and a sad commentary upon the churches of this Association that no enterprise of this character has proven a success within our bounds. This ought not to be, and, if the churches continue such manifest indifference to this great work, we can expect nothing but the disapproval of our Master and a sad declension of religion and personal piety in our midst. Do not wonder at the sad tales told by the letters from the various churches sent up here. They bewail their coldness and indifference, and want of progress and religious activity. Do not wonder at drouths and

floods, at caterpillars and blast, at fraud and corruption, at pestilence and disasters throughout the land and country. Unless there is a radical change in our churches these evils will continue and increase. God will have honor from His people, and if they continuously and wilfully neglect Him and His work, He will most assuredly visit His judgments upon them. Brethren, we urge you in the name of our God of Love, in the name of His dear Son, who paid His precious life a ransom for us, to consider in the light of God's holy word the weighty responsibilities that rest upon us as His followers. O, will you not believe Him? Will you not bring your tithes into the storehouse of the Lord and try Him, prove Him, and see if He will not pour out such a blessing upon us that there shall not be room enough to contain it? Will you do it? God is not slack concerning His promises. He is slow to anger and plenteous in mercy; but He will visit His hot displeasure upon us if we fail to honor Him with our substance. Let all give as the Lord has given us. The Lord has promised good concerning Israel, and if we desire to enjoy His blessings we must obey Him, and live in the faithful discharge of our Christian duties.

We recommend that this Association co-operate with our State Board in the Mission Work, and that all funds collected for Home Missions be reported to the State Mission Board, but be disbursed by the Ex-Board of the Union Association within our own bounds, a report of which shall be made by your Ex-Committee to the State Board. The Executive Board shall, as soon as practicable, select a suitable minister to take charge of the Mission Work in our Association, and if practicable, employ him for his entire time.

Fraternally submitted,

W. G. ROBERTSON, Chairman.

18. Report of Committee on Finance, adopted :

Received from the churches for Minutes.....	\$61 85
“ “ “ “ Association.....	32 90
“ “ “ “ Foreign Missions.....	14 07
“ “ “ “ Home Missions.....	14 08
“ “ Carrollton S. School for Home Missions.....	5 95
“ “ “ “ Foreign Missions.....	5 95
“ “ Third District for Foreign Missions.....	2 35
“ “ “ “ Home Missions.....	2 35
“ “ Fourth District for Home Missions.....	1 10
“ “ “ “ Foreign Missions.....	1 10
“ “ Enon Church for State Missions.....	5 40
“ “ Prairie Church for Indian Missions.....	7 75
Collected Monday for Home Chapel.....	20 20
“ Sabbath for Foreign Missions.....	14 60
“ “ for Home Missions.....	14 60
	\$204 25

J. W. HANSON, *Chairman.*

19 Committee on Documents reported, adopted :

Your Committee on Documents ask to submit the following report :

Bethlehem, Spring Hill Lamar County, and New Arbor Springs are not represented by letter. The Pickensville Church reports the death of Deacon A. M. Wilkins. Beulah Church has ordained Brother J. G. Thornton to the full work of the Gospel ministry, and Chalcedony Church has licensed Brother F. M. Walker to preach the Gospel.

We would respectfully call the attention of this body to the appeal of the Sabbath School Convention for aid and encouragement in carrying on the great work in which it is engaged; and suggest that if there be any surplus funds belonging to the Association they be turned over to the Sunday School Convention for the purpose of buying books, etc., to distribute among the needy Sabbath Schools.

All the churches from which letters have been received are supplied with pastors. Eight churches report precious revivals, five interesting prayer-meetings, while eight report coldness, and earnestly request the prayers of this body. We therefore recommend that this body suspend the order of business to comply with their request, and pray that the Lord may restore

unto them the zeal of His Holy Spirit, and the joys of His Salvation, so that they may teach transgressors His ways, and sinners may be converted unto Him.
J. H. ROBERTSON, *Chairman*.

In accordance with above report, prayer was offered by Elder J. P. Lee.

20. Report of Committee on Nominations, adopted :

The next Introductory Sermon by Elder J. G. Thornton; alternate, Elder J. C. Foster. Annual Missionary Sermon by Elder J. H. Curry; alternate, Elder G. M. Lyles. The next Circular Letter to be written by Brother L. M. Stone. Subject: We believe that Adam, by sin, fell from the state of purity in which he was created, that all his posterity are degenerate, and all human nature is corrupt and depraved. M. L. STANSEL, *Chairman*.

21. Report of Committee on Deceased Deacons, adopted :

God has been pleased, since we last met, to remove from our midst our esteemed brother, Dr. A. M. Wilkins. He was born in South Carolina, October 17th, 1816; made a profession of religion in the fall of 1840; joined the Church of Christ at Big Creek, A. D. 1841, where he remained a consistent member until May, A. D. 1847, at which time he withdrew to assist in constituting the church at Pickensville. June 19, 1847, he was ordained to the office of a Deacon, which he used faithfully until the day of his death. Brother Wilkins was endowed with a strong intellect, and was distinguished for his ardent love to the Saviour and His cause. He was a fond and devoted husband, a doting father, and a humble and zealous christian. After a painful illness, he departed this life March 15th, 1878, sustained by the precious hope of a home among the blessed.

J. H. CURRY, *Chairman*.

22. Appointed the next session of the Association to be held with Bethel Baptist Church, Tuskaloosa County, Ala., commencing on Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in September, 1879.

23. *Miscellaneous Business*.—1. On motion, the following query was offered: What course, if any, should this Association take with two churches living in non-fellowship with each other? When, after some discussion, it was, on motion, laid upon the table.

2. On motion, the following Executive Board was appointed for the ensuing year, viz: L. M. Stone, W. S. Coleman, U. E. Allen, C. T. Fort, W. G. Robertson; and to this Board was assigned the direction of all Missionary operations in the bounds of the Association.

3. On motion, the following brethren were appointed to attend the next session of the Sunday School Convention, to convene with Unity Church, Friday before the 1st Sabbath in August 1879, viz: J. P. Lee, J. H. Curry, H. L. Williams, C. T. Fort, J. T. Hancock, J. D. Stapp.

4. Ordered, That the Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes, pay over the funds to their respective boards, and retain out of Association funds \$25 for his services; and that all funds unappropriated and remaining in his hands be turned over to the Board of the Sunday School Convention for the use of Sabbath Schools.

5. On motion, the query previously laid on the table was reconsidered and taken up. when, on motion, adjourned until 7:30 o'clock P. M. Prayer by Brother J. F. Lanneau.

Association met. Prayer by Elder G. M. Lyles.

On motion, the following query was submitted in place of the previous one, viz: What course should this Association pursue with regard to the difficulty between the New Hope and Chalcedony Churches. After mature deliberation, and the delegates of both churches requesting a full investigation, the Association appointed the following brethren, viz: G. M. Lyles, J. P. Lee, J. H. Curry, R. A. Massey, M. G. Loftin, C. T. Fort, J. A. Burgin, to investigate the difficulty, and endeavor to effect a reconciliation, and report the result to the next Association.

6. On motion, brethren J. A. Mitchell, J. B. Kilpatrick, P. H. Howard were appointed a Committee to look into the condition of New Arbor Spring Church, and report the same to the next session of this body.

On motion, ordered that we print a synopsis of the proceedings of the Sabbath School Convention with our Minutes.

7. Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the members of the Carrollton Church, and to the citizens of Carrollton and vicinity, for the kindness and hospitality extended to the delegates and visitors during its session. Also, to the members of the Methodist Church for their kindness shown in giving us the use of their church.

On motion, adjourned. Appropriate remarks were made by the Moderator. The delegates joined in singing a hymn, and giving to each other the parting hand. Prayer was offered by Eld. L. M. Stone. Thus was closed another harmonious session of the Union Baptist Association.

J. C. FOSTER, *Moderator.*

H. B. CHAPPELLE, *Clerk.*

H. B. CHAPPELLE, in account with the Union Baptist Association.

DR.

To cash received from Committee on Finance.....	\$204 25
“ unappropriated last year.....	2 95
	—————\$207 20

CR.

By cash paid Foreign Mission Board.....	\$58 27
“ “ Home and Indian Mission Board.....	45 83
“ “ State Board.....	5 40
“ “ Printing Minutes.....	50 00
“ “ Retained for services as Clerk.....	25 00
“ “ W. G. Robertson for Sunday School.....	22 70
	—————\$207 20

CIRCULAR LETTER.

BY ELDER R. A. MASSEY.

“We believe the Scriptures, comprising the Old and New Testaments, are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.”

This article of faith embraces two propositions: the divine authenticity of the Scriptures, and their sufficiency as a rule of faith and practice.

First—Are the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments the Word of God? This is a question that addresses itself to the serious consideration of all men, since its decision will determine many others, from which there can be no appeal. That the *Old Testament*, as well as the New, is of divine origin is established by the fulfillment of its prophecies.

Profane history records the accomplishment of many predictions contained in the Old Testament. One, however, will suffice our purpose. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel prophecy concerning the downfall of Babylon. The last named delivered his prediction the night in which it was fulfilled: the first, about one hundred and fifty years prior thereto. In the 44th and 45th chapters of Isaiah we read: “God saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers: That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure, even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.” “Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the twoleaved gates: and the gates shall not be shut. He shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the Lord of hosts.” Among the many ancient profane writers who speak of the fulfillment of this prophecy, may be mentioned Heroditus, Ctesias, Berosus and Josephus. The city of Babylon formed a vast square, through the center of which flowed the river Euphrates. Its circumference was fifty-six miles, and was surrounded by a wall three hundred feet high and eighty feet broad. In addition to the security thus afforded, a wall of immense height and strength was built, bordering both sides of the river, in all its meanderings through the entire city. For purposes of commerce and passage there were ponderous gates of brass built in the walls along the river. These gates were shut by night and opened by day. There was also near the center of the city an immense bridge spanning the river, at each end of which was built a gorgeous palace for Babylon’s kings. In one of these, Belshazzar held his feast the night he was killed and Babylon taken. This palace was surrounded by three walls of great height. To all human appearances it was impossible, considering its strength and its fortifications, for Babylon ever to be captured. But God had said “to the deep, be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers.” This was literally fulfilled. Cyrus, instead of wasting time in the futile attempt to demolish, with battering rams, walls that looked superciliously down from a height of three hundred feet upon such vain efforts, as soon as he laid siege to the city dug a channel around it, into which he turned the waters of the river, and thus opened a passage for his army into the city, literally fulfilling, “I will dry up thy rivers.” But after his army entered the city they would be in the bed of the river, between two walls, from which it would have been impossible to emerge, except by scaling them a distance of three hundred feet, or finding a passage through them. The latter God provided, for the prophet had said, “I will open before him the twoleaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut.” Heroditus says, “for some cause the gates that night were left open.” The cause was this, “that the Scripture might be fulfilled.” Having entered the city from the river he marched to the palace where Bel-

shazzar, in conscious security, caroused in Bacchanalian revelry, with his wives and his concubines, and a thousand of his lords. The finger of God heralded his coming by writing upon the palace wall, in sight of Belshazzar, the mysterious words, "mene, mene, tekel, upharsin." As he gazed upon this strange phenomenon "his knees smote one against another," thus fulfilling the Scripture of Isaiah. "I will loose the loins of kings." Having captured Babylon, Cyrus gave liberty to the enslaved Jews who had been carried into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar. The prophet Isaiah had said, "he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the Lord of hosts." It is a most striking feature of this emancipation that it was without price or reward. It was never known in ancient times for an enslaved people to be liberated without ransom; but in this case, so far from asking a ransom, Cyrus gave orders for a contribution to be made by his subjects that they might be able to return and rebuild Jerusalem, for it was prophesied of Cyrus, "he shall build my city." And to crown all, the very name of the conqueror of Babylon and builder of Jerusalem was foretold nearly one hundred and fifty years before the birth of him who was to "fulfill all God's pleasure." The prophet's language is, "Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus," and again, "I have surnamed thee." The destruction of Jerusalem by Titus, as recorded by Josephus is a remarkable exemplification of the fulfillment of New Testament prophecy.

Second—*The divine authenticity of the Old Testament is made manifest by the frequent quotations made from it by Christ and His apostles.* Christ frequently quoted the language of Moses in the Pentateuch and David in the Psalms, as also from other books of the Old Scriptures. These quotations are a recognition of the Old Testament as the Word of God.

Third—*Paul says, alluding to the Old Testament, "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God."*

Other arguments might be presented if the compass of this essay would permit. It is true there are many difficulties arising with regard to many expressions of Scripture. The most specious that have yet appeared are presented by Colenzo, Bishop of Natal, in Africa. Moses, who never entered the promised land, and to whom is ascribed the authorship of the Pentateuch, in describing scenes east of the Jordan, speaks of them as "on the other side of Jordan," and places west of Jordan are alluded to as "on this side of Jordan," which would imply a writer in Palestine. Again, portions of the first and second chapters of Genesis appear to have been written by an Elohist writer, and other portions by a Jehovistic writer. The word "God" being uniformly employed by the one, and the word "Lord God" by the other. But if it be established that Moses was not the writer of all the Pentateuch, which, very probably, was the case, still it will not detract from the inspiration of the first five books of the Bible.

If it can be proved that Jesus was the Son of God, then it is established, beyond all controversy, that both the Old and the New Testament Scriptures are the Word of God, because Jesus recognized the Old Testament as inspired, and the New Testament is a history of his acts and sayings—the acts and sayings of his apostles. That Jesus was the Son of God is proved (a) by the wonders attending his birth; (b) the miracles of his life; (c) the phenomena accompanying his death; (d) the logic of his life; (e) the precepts delivered by him, for "never man spake like this man," and Josephus says, "if it be lawful to call him a man." In what has been said to support the proposition that the Scriptures are inspired, no allusion has been made to the internal evidence of the Bible, which alone is sufficient to banish all doubt concerning the first proposition.

The first part of this article of faith being sustained, the last part follows as a logical conclusion, viz: That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are a sufficient rule of faith and practice. It becomes us, therefore, as Baptists, to "consider our ways," whether our faith and practice are in conformity to the rule of our adoption.

SYNOPSIS
OF THE
TENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION
OF THE
UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The Tenth Annual Session of the Sabbath School Convention was held with the Baptist Church, at Mineral Spring, embracing Friday and Saturday before the first Sabbath in August, 1878.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder S. Hildreth.

The President being absent, the Convention was called to order by the Secretary.

On motion, Elder S. Hildreth was appointed President, *pro tem*.

The letters from the schools and churches were read, and names of delegates enrolled.

The Convention was organized by the election of Elder S. Hildreth, President, and W. G. Robertson Secretary and Treasurer.

Only four schools and seven churches were represented.

Convention earnestly recommended the use of the Bible in our schools, and in addition, that excellent Sabbath School paper, "Kind Words," published at Macon, Georgia, and that they use the lessons published in said paper.

The Committee on Queries and Essays submitted the following for discussion at the next session of this body, to-wit:

Query 1. What was the book that was given to John, when eaten, was sweet in his mouth and bitter in his belly?

Query 2. Who was the woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars?

Essay 1. What are the best means of promoting a more general interest in the Sabbath School work? By W. S. Coleman.

Essay 2. Is there Scriptural authority for Sabbath Schools? By W. G. Robertson.

Essay 3. The scriptural duty of parents to their children and of children to their parents. By Elder S. Hildreth.

Elder G. M. Lyles, appointed to read an essay on the evils of popular amusements, not having prepared a written essay, by request, delivered a well-timed and unanswerable talk on the subject.

The Treasurer made report, that, under the resolution of last session, to raise funds for the purpose of aiding the Sabbath School work, he had collected \$13.50, and had aided three schools to the amount of \$11.48. Pending the adoption of the report, the sum of \$14.00 was pledged and paid in for the continuation of the work. All present realized the importance of the work, and manifested considerable interest in the cause.

It was deemed best to have the Annual Missionary Sermon preached on Saturday, instead of Sabbath, as heretofore.

On motion, every pastor within the bounds of the Convention was requested to preach a sermon and take up a collection in all their churches to aid in organizing Sabbath Schools, and turn the same over to the Treasurer for that purpose.

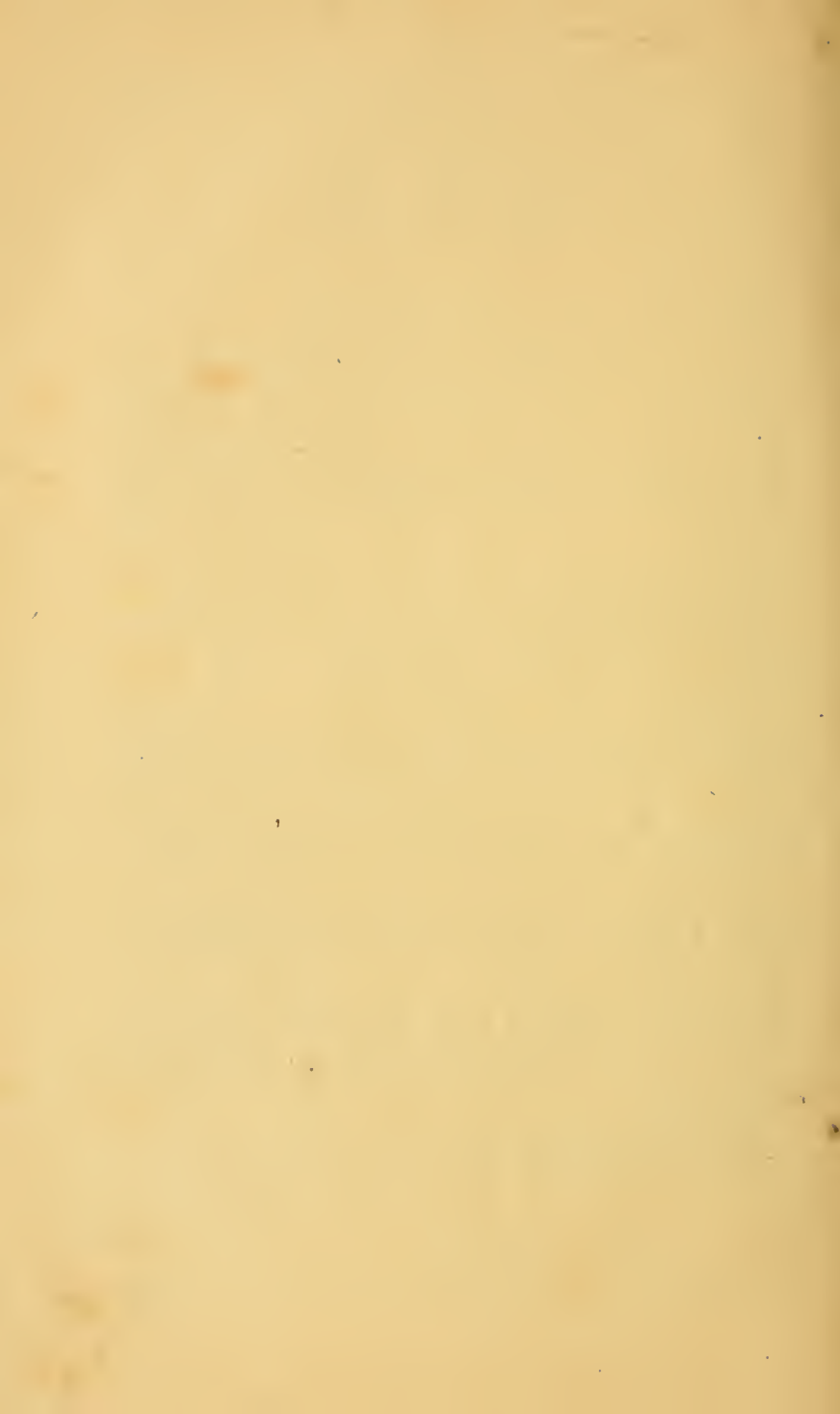
Appointed the next session of the Convention to be held with the Church at Unity, ten miles southeast of Carrollton, commencing on Friday before the 1st Sabbath in August, 1879.

Next Introductory Sermon, by Elder J. H. Curry; alternate, Elder J. G. Thornton. Missionary Sermon, by Elder J. C. Foster; alternate, Elder R. A. Massey.

It is earnestly desired that all the schools, and as many churches as possible, be represented at the next session. Send up full statistics—number of teachers and pupils, name of superintendent, kind of lessons used, and everything else that will be of interest to the Convention.

The Convention adjourned.

W. G. ROBERTSON, *Secretary*. S. HILDRETH, *President*.



NAMES OF BAPTIST MINISTERS

IN THIS ASSOCIATION, WITH THEIR POST OFFICES.

R. B. WILKINS.....	Reform,	Pickens County,	Ala.
ELIJAH HOWELL.....	Millport,	Lamar	“ “
I. HOLLINGSWORTH.....	Carrollton,	Pickens	“ “
S. HILDRETH.....	Pickensville,	“	“ “
D. DUNCAN.....	“	“	“ “
J. H. CURRY.....	“	“	“ “
F. M. WALKER*.....	Carrollton,	“	“ “
H. B. CHAPPELLE*.....	“	“	“ “
G. M. LYLES.....	Providence,	“	“ “
J. S. WOOTEN.....	“	“	“ “
H. BRADLEY*.....	“	“	“ “
WM. COWARD.*.....	“	“	“ “
A. M. HANKS.....	Columbus,	Lowndes Co.,	Miss.
J. M. LAND.....	Pickensville,	Pickens Co.,	Ala.
J. P. LEE.....	“	“	“ “
A. A. BALL*.....	“	“	“ “
JACOB PARKER.....	Pleasant Grove,	“	“ “
M. P. SMITH.....	Union,	Greene	“ “
R. A. MASSEY.....	Vienna,	Pickens	“ “
J. A. MITCHELL.....	Sipsey T'pike,	Tuskaloosa,	“
J. H. M. ANDERS.....	Romulus,	Tuskaloosa Co.,	“
T. G. THORNTON.....	“	“	“ “
J. C. FOSTER.....	Sylvan,	“	“ “
J. L. RAY.....	Hickman,	“	“ “

ORDAINED MINISTERS - - - - - 19

LICENTIATES* - - - - - 5